



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2144 (child protective services)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2144. The bill makes numerous changes to the Child Protective Services (CPS) statutes.

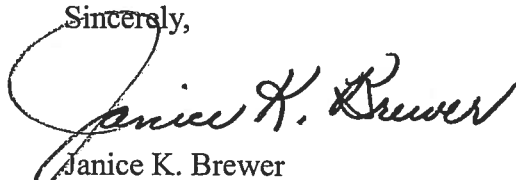
Among my concerns, this legislation would include CPS caseworkers among persons prohibited from disclosing information about an adoption hearing. This provision is both unnecessary and overly restrictive, and may be interpreted to prevent appropriate and necessary disclosures by CPS caseworkers.

Additionally, I am wary of encouraging courts to grant a petition to adopt when an appeal to the termination of parental rights is pending. There have been at least 18 successful appeals within the last five years within Maricopa and Pima Counties alone.

While I appreciate the intent behind this legislation, I am uncomfortable with the impact these provisions may have upon child well-being in this state.

These concerns are among the primary reasons I have vetoed House Bill 2144.

Sincerely,


Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Andy Biggs
The Honorable Kate Brophy McGee